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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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December 9, 2002

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TO: FCC, Fax 202-418-0232

From: Eric Stewart

RE: 2002 Biennial Review

Dear Mr. Powell:

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

I am writing regarding the FCC's 2002 Biennial Review and its "reconsideration" of rules which preserve media diversity. Rules covering newspaper/broadcast cross ownership, national and local broadcast ownership caps (TV and/or radio), and the dual network rule (preventing the major TV networks from merging) are very important in maintaining a semblance of diversity of views and opinions.

Since the Telecommunications Act of 1996, it seems to me that the resulting mergers and deregulation have negatively affected the quality of broadcast and print media. Stories have become more mainstream and innocuous; clearly the motive is profit, not enlightened readers and viewers. **But this country's airwaves belong to the American people, and the FCC is supposed to manage them in the public interest.** Henry Adams claimed that the foundations of democracy are an educated citizenry; I believe that further media deregulation by the FCC serves to directly undermine democracy itself by precluding the degree of dissent and debate necessary for a healthy democracy.

I strongly urge you to oppose further media deregulation, and encourage the FCC to take into account less "expert opinions" and more "voices of the people". Thanks, and I look forward to hearing your comments on this issue.



Eric Stewart

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